FIRST COMICS
APR. $1.25
NO. 23
$1.60 CANADA
E-MAN
Staton

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%FIRST COMICS,
1014 DAVIS STREET,
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
60201

Dear Mike and Joe:

Since I go light-years out of my way to avoid the A-Team, a lot of the jokes in E-Man #21 were probably lost on me. I don't think of E-Man readers as the type who watch programs like the A-Team or The Dukes of Hazzard or Knight Rider. I know that personally I think of E-Man readers as the type who sit around in silk robes, sipping white wine, and chatting with their brokers while they read the latest issue of E-Man. None of the low, vulgar, tee-vee stuff. Not on your life.

I did, however, enjoy the Golden Gopher and hope the Goph reappears soon in a new identity (maybe next time the Gopher can be Ford Fairmont).

I missed Nova. Hope to see her again soon. Maybe you could talk Berni Wrightson into drawing a pin-up of her on the set of her monster/creature/horror tee-vee show.

T.E. Pouncey
Somewhere in Wichita

You read **E-Man,** *get drunk, and make critical decisions about your financial future all at the same time? No wonder you missed a lot of the jokes.*

B, E, F, Q, and Z people:

Okay, who's ripping off who? Did Howard Chaykin copy Golden Gopher for Black Beaver or vice versa?

E.T. Bouncey
119 Rutherford
Redwood City, CA 94061

Neither. Just one of those cosmic coincidences — like two scientists independently arriving at the same discovery at the same time and then duking it out for the Nobel Prize. A lot like the bizarre coincidence of someone named T.E. Pouncey and someone else named E.T. Bouncey both writing letters about the same issue of **E-Man.**

Dear Joe & Co.:

The "Golden Gopher"?!? Come on! What kind of a name is that? It doesn't sound like a superhero, it sounds like a ... well, it sounds like something you can get, but it will cost you extra!

Now what you need is a name that has both strength and dignity. What you need is a name like ... "The Fighting Illini." Yeah ... now there's a superhero! I can see him now, in his headdress and traditional Indian garb, going into his dance and ritual and kung-fuing his opponents. Here's a guy who can inspire alums everywhere to get up and cheer! Think about it — it's not too late to relocate the B-Team to downstate Decatur or something.

Larry Kraus
1630 Birch
Northbrook, IL 60062

I hope Mike Baron doesn't see this letter.

Dear Mr. Staton:

I have just started collecting E-Man and noticed that you guys put good color in your comic books (not like the faded color in other brand books). I also like it

for the reason that you can't read two opposite pages at the same time.

By the way, could I use coupons in the earlier issue of E-Man to get a subscription? It only costs $11 in issue #6 and $15.00 in issue #20! What a difference. Give me your answer.

Jimi Gapinski
7635 Dunston St.
Springfield, VA 22151

We offer subscriptions primarily as a service to those who are unable to get our books any other way. We really don't make any money on them. The nice paper and nice color cost more — which is why we had to raise both our cover price and subscription rates.

NEXT MONTH: The conclusion to our first mini-series — part three of **The P.I.'s,** courtesy of **Max Collins, Joe Staton, Terry Beatty,** and a special guest appearance by **Mike Grell.**

NEXT ISSUE: E-Man co-creators **Nicola Cuti** and **Joe Staton** are re-united to reveal the origin of the little detective with the big gun in "Mike Mauser: My Story." **E-Man** #24 on sale in February!

— Not Joe Staton

Rick Obadiah, Publisher

Mike Gold, Managing Editor
Rick Oliver, Editorial Coordinator
Alex Wald,
Production Manager

Ralph C. Musicant,
Operations Director
Kathy Kotsivas,
Direct Sales Manager

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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

T.M.
created by
NICOLA CUTI & JOE STATON
LILI ZHONG THOUGHT SHE HAD LEFT THE PAST BEHIND WHEN SHE LANDED A JOB AS TOKEN ORIENTAL NEWSPERSON ON CHANNEL 99.
BUT SOMETIMES THE PAST CATCHES UP TO YOU- AND LILI'S IS GAINING FAST...
BIG AL!
WHY, LILI CHILE! WHAT AN ★INCREDIBOBBLE SOO-PRISE!
YOU IS JES' IN TIME TO HELP ME TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE CONTINENTICAL ★US OF A!!!★
The SEE-THRU WARS!
WRITTEN BY JOE STATON
ART BY JOE STATON & RICK BURCHETT
LETTERED BY KEN BRUZENAK
COLORED BY WENDY FIORE
EDITED BY ★★MIKE GOLD★★
ALLIGATOR DIALOG CONSULTANT: RICK OLIVER

LILI! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT DOES THIS CREATURE WANT?
Chance!
I'M NOT SURE, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NOT LIKELY TO BE HEALTHY FOR YOU OR ME...
...OR ANY OTHER WARM-BLOODED CREATURE!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I ACTUALLY BELIEVED HE WANTED TO HELP ME IN MY QUEST FOR AN ANARCHO-SOCIALIST REPUBLIC--
--BUT HE WAS JUST USING ME IN HIS SECRET PLOT TO DESTROY ALL HUMAN LIFE!
SO, I LIED
LAST TIME, YOU TRIED TO STOP ME, BUT YOU AIN'T GONE DO NUTHIN' THIS TIME--
DON'T WORRY, LILI--
--'CAUSE IF YOU DO, ME AN' THE BOYS GONE BITE MIZ KANE'S HEADBONE CLEAN OFF!

"--E-MAN WILL GET US OUT OF THIS!"
BOY, I BET NOVA WILL BE PROUD OF THE WAY WE SAVED ALL THE KOALAS IN AUSTRALIA FROM STARVATION! *
* LAST ISSUE.
"WE'LL JUST SURPRISE HER AT THE STATION..."
!
KLONGG!
OOPS! SORRY, TEDDY --I FORGOT THAT YOU CAN'T CHANGE INTO A LIGHT RAY TO GO THROUGH WINDOWS!
"WE'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR, JUST LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE."
YOOHOO--ANYBODY HERE?
WHY, SHORE WE IS! WE ALL JES' WAITIN' FOR YO' BLUE-EYED SELF!

BIG AL!
YEP. YOU IS JES' IN TIME FER THE POO-RADE, E-MORON.
AN' THIS TIME, I IS READY FER YOU!*
* E-MAN DEFEATED BIG AL BACK IN E-MAN #12.
LET THE WOMEN GO. YOU KNOW YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR MY ENERGY POWERS!
LOOK OUT ALEC! HE'S GOT SOME NEW SECRET WEAPON-!
I IS BORRIED THE ASSISTANCE OF LILI'S OLD TECHNICIANS-- HOW LIN AND CHUR CHEE-- AN' THEY IS FUR-FECTED A NEW DEE-VICE...
IT'LL HAVE TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN YOUR LAST ONE--THAT STUPID GAI-TOR ROBOT!
WEEMAWEDWEEMAWEDWEEMAWED
"The ROTO-MAGNETIC RAY! I GOT THE IDEE FROM Roto-Magnetic Digest.
"IT SORTA SCRAMBULATES YER SUB-ATOMIC STRUCTURE--"
!
4

!
I FIGGERED IT'D KEEP YOU KINDA TIED-UP SO TO SPEAK!!!
!
STOP THAT FURRY CRITTER--HE'S RUNNIN' OFF WITH MY discombobulated TOE!
Where'd they GO? I dont see 'em NOwheres!
Boss ain't gonna LIKE this!
STUPID LIZARDS! CAN'T KETCH FLIES ON YOUR OWN NOSE BONES!
OH WELL, I RECKON HE WON'T BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE IN HIS PRESENT STATE.
AND NOW Ladies and GENTLEMINTS, IT IS TIME TO initiate MY GREATEST PLAN!
5

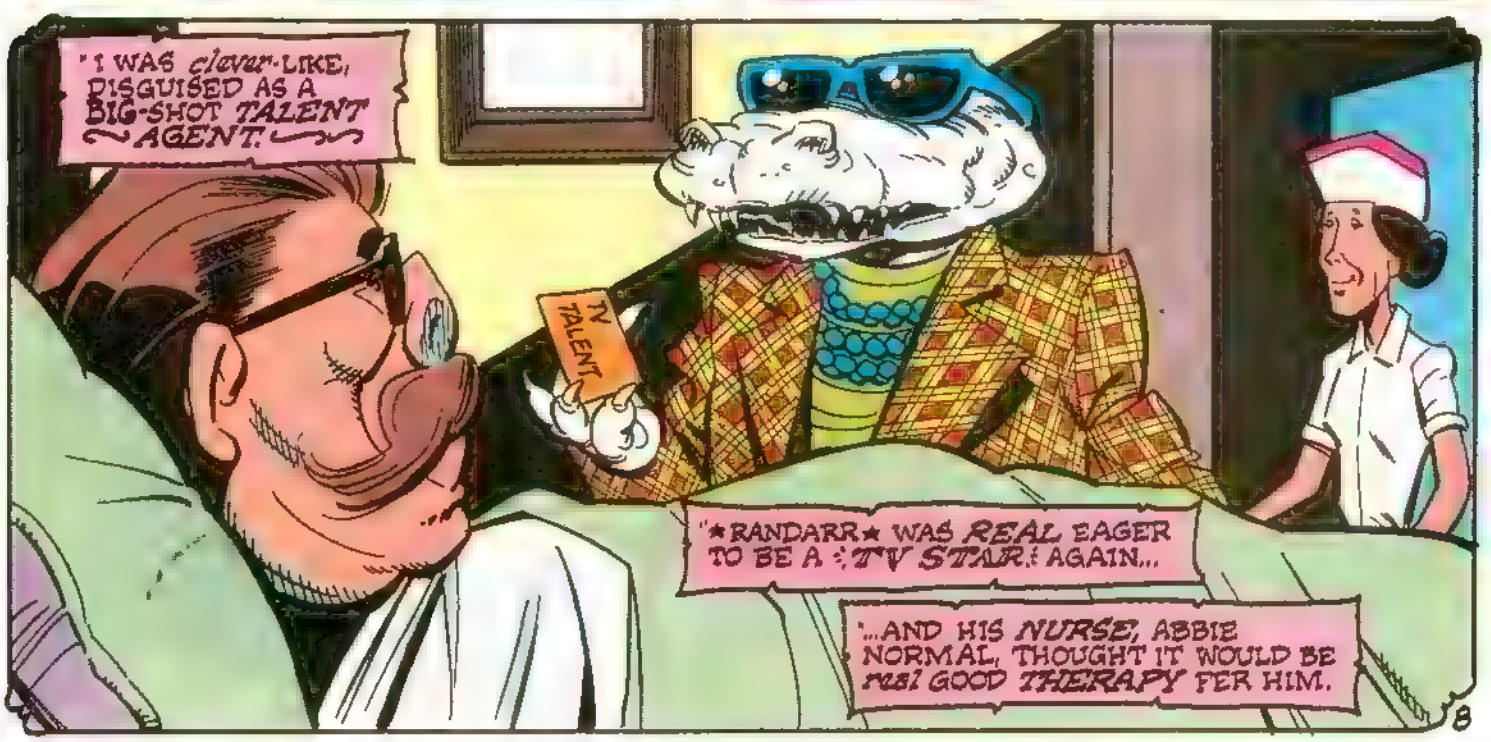
AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US JUST WHAT THAT MIGHT BE.
WHY, MY CARROT-TOPPED DARLIN' I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK...
...DURIN' MY RECENT RETIREMENT, I GAVE MUCH THOUGHT TO MY METHODS--
--AND IT SUDDEN-LIKE OCCURRED TO ME THAT I IS GOIN' ABOUT THIS WORLD CONQUEST THING ALL WRONG.
WHY WASTE YO' TIME BUILDIN' COMPLICATED DOO-HICKIES TO RULE THE ENTIRE PLANET WHEN THE POWERFUL TEEVY ADVERTISIN' MEDIUM IS ALREADY IRRADIATIN' BRAINPANS EVERWHERE WITH WHAT-EVER NOTION YOU WANTS TO PUT THERE!
AND SO I HAVE TAKEN OVER YOUR TV STATION AND ENGAGED A TRULY ** REMARKABLE PERFORMER-
RANDARR THE INEXPLICABLE !!!!!!!!!!*
*LAST SEEN IN E-MAN #14.
BACK AT NOVA'S APARTMENT...
GOSH, THANKS, TEDDY--
--WHEN THAT RAY HIT ME, I COULDN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT!
THE EFFECTS SEEM ONLY TEMPORARY-- BUT I'M GOING TO NEED SOME HELP TO GET PAST AL'S ROTO-MAGNETIC RAY.
MAYBE WHAT I NEED IS A PHYSICIST...
WHY, HELLO, E-MAN...
IOLA
10 Mi.
6

...YES, WENDELL AND I ARE WORKING CONSTANTLY TO RID ME OF THE AFFLICTION THAT GIVES ME MY PHOTON POWERS.*
* PHOTON'S BODY ABSORBS SOLAR POWER UNCONTROLLABLY. ONLY DEVICES IMPLANTED BY SAMUEL BOAR ALLOW PHOTON TO RELEASE THAT POWER IN DESTRUCTIVE BURSTS. WITHOUT BOAR'S IMPLANTS, THE SOLAR BUILD-UP WOULD KILL HER. -- WHEW.
I'D LIKE TO HELP--
-BUT WE'VE BEEN SNOWED IN BY A BLIZZARD...
NO PROBLEM--
!
-I'LL JUST ZIP UP THERE THROUGH THE PHONE LINES AND GIVE YOU A LIFT!
MEANWHILE...
NOW, SURELY Y'ALL REMEMBERATES MY BIG OL' GAI-TOR ROBOT--
"HE MOST NEARLY DEE-STROYED 44 NEW YORK CITY.*
HE-MAN #12.
WELL, I IS About TO MAKE SURE EVERY chile IN THE WHOLE DAGNABBED COUNTRY gonna HAVE THEY Own MINIATURE ★ GAI-TOR ★
WONDERFUL! I'M SURE MILTON GLASS IS EATING HIS HEART OUT.
7

HUSH UP AN' LISSEN!
"AFTER ME AN the BOYS ESCAPED IN OUR SUB*, WE SNUCK DOWN the St. LAWRENCE SEAWAY, ALL QUIET-LIKE, AN' WOUND UP IN LAKE MICHIGAN...
"WE LAID LOW FER AWHILE, BIDIN' OUR TIME READIN' the LOCAL *NEWSPAPERS..
G.S. FT. MUDGE
GUIDO
*E-MAN #12--AND THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE'RE TELLING YOU!

"THAT'S HOW I dee-SCOVERED *RANDARR*...
"IT LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD SOMETHIN' I COULD USE...
SUN-TIMES
CRAZED MYSTIC BATTLES E-MAI
KUP DONATES NOSE TO SCIENCE

ASYLUM
"SO, ME AN' the BOYS WENT TO VISIT *RANDARR* AT HIS NEW, sh... "HOME."


"I WAS clever-LIKE, DISGUISED AS A BIG-SHOT TALENT AGENT.
TV TALENT
"*RANDARR* WAS REAL EAGER TO BE A TV STAR AGAIN...
"...AND HIS NURSE, ABBIE NORMAL, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE real GOOD THERAPY FER HIM.

FIRST NOTES

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

One of the nice things about this time of year is that we can cast an eye on our deepest desires — those fantastic material possessions that we might be able to connive our friends and relatives into purchasing for us, all in the name of holiday spirit.

So if you've got a non-comics fan acquaintance who is likely to offer you a gift, here's our little survey of Neat Stuff you might not otherwise consider.

This list was gathered very scientifically — I asked everybody I could get a hold of thirty minutes before my deadline.

John Ostrander was the first, but nearly everybody suggested the new *Terry and the Pirates* hardcover reprint series — **Milton Caniff's** best work, from the very beginning. Volume 1 covers about the first ten months; it runs $30.00 and is available from Flying Buttress Publications.

Howard Chaykin's recommendation is also in the reprint vein. For the past several years, Russ Cochran has been busy shooting all the EC Comics from the original artwork and releasing these classics on heavy paper in beautiful hardcover sets. Russ has about 75% of the entire EC library out, but Howard's choice is the unparalleled **Harvey Kurtzman** war titles, *Frontline Combat* and *Two-Fisted Tales*. Artists here include the very best of the early 1950s — **Wally Wood, Jack Davis, John Severin, Will Elder,** and many others.

Mike Baron suggests you check out **Larry Gonick's** *History of the Universe*. Long an underground comics classic, the sixth issue of this very-occasionally published epic was released this past summer, and the album reprint of the early issues is still available.

Leave it to **Timothy Truman** to get a little eclectic on us. Tim recommends any of the works of **Hugo Pratt,** the famous Italian artist best known for his creation, Corto Maltese. You can easily follow the stories from the art alone. Which is for the best, as none of the numerous full color reprint albums are in English! Great stuff — you owe it to yourself to check them out.

Speaking about things foreign, **Doug Rice** suggests looking in to the two *Yamato* volumes. Doug, as you probably know, is the creator/artist of **Dynamo Joe** — the only comic feature (as of this writing) influenced by Japanese animation that isn't an adaptation of a commercially-available toy.

Doug tells me *Yamato* is the most fantastic of the Japanese animation series; these volumes contain all the designs, production designs, paintings, and backgrounds used in the program. The books are in Japanese, but because they are almost entirely visual, you might not notice.

My own recommendation? Well, nobody mentioned Another Rainbow's **Carl Barks** library. These guys are in the process of reprinting just about every Barks Disney comics story ever done — a lofty and admirable goal. The series resembles Cochran's EC library, with three noticable exceptions: the paper appears to be thinner, the reproduction isn't quite as crisp, and the sets do not appear to be released in any particular order.

Better still is Fantagraphics' Complete Popeye series, reprinting all of **E.C. Segar's** awesome tales of the one-eyed adventurer. Comics don't come much better than this.

The above list reads like a who's who of comics history: Kurtzman, Caniff, Segar, Pratt, Barks ... really great stuff. If you're reading First Comics, you already are aware there's more to comic art than the "three fight scenes an issue" formula; if you haven't seen this stuff, you're really missing out.

If your neighborhood comics shop doesn't carry some of these items, there are quite a number of mail-order dealers that do. I suggest you subscribe to *The Comics Buyer's Guide* and read their ads. Actually, you'll also be following all the latest in comics news — CBG is a weekly newspaper, quite professionally done.

A 26 issue sub runs $10.00; *The Comics Buyer's Guide* is located at 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990.

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

Bob Wayne is an old friend.— about a decade ago, I was writing for his now-famous fanzine, *Tales From Texas*. Today, Bob's got a mini-empire going for him, with two bookstores in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

John Ostrander will be visiting Bob's "Fantastic Worlds" bookstores in the middle of this month — Dallas fans probably just missed out on visits from **Steve Rude** and myself on each of the preceeding two weeks. On December 14th at 4:00 PM, John will be at Fantastic Worlds at 807 Melbourne Road in Hurst. On Saturday, December 15th, John will be appearing at Fantastic Worlds at 3011 Lackland Road in Fort Worth; he'll be there much of the day.

Bob's got a good operation down there; we're all looking forward to meeting you folks.

AND...

... so we bring another year to an end. We've got all sorts of interesting new projects lined up for next year ... but, then again, I'll bet you do, too.

So let me digress from all the hype and wish you and yours the very happiest of New Years, from all of us at First Comics!

— Mike Gold

FIRST IN DECEMBER

American Flagg! #19: **Howard Chaykin's** "Strange Bedfellows: Bullets and Ballots, Part One." Elections, Chicago Plex style! Plus: The Adventures of Mark Thrust, by **Elliot S. Maggin, Judith Hunt** and **Larry Stroman!**

E-Man # 23: Big All Tyger Lili! Randarr the Inexplicable! The B-Team! The Smelts! Ford Fairmont! This one's got them all! Even E-Man!

Grimjack #9: There's a strange dimension in Cynosure where thoughts become reality and dreams contain damnation! "My Sins Remembered," a booklength thriller by **John Ostrander** and **Timothy Truman.**

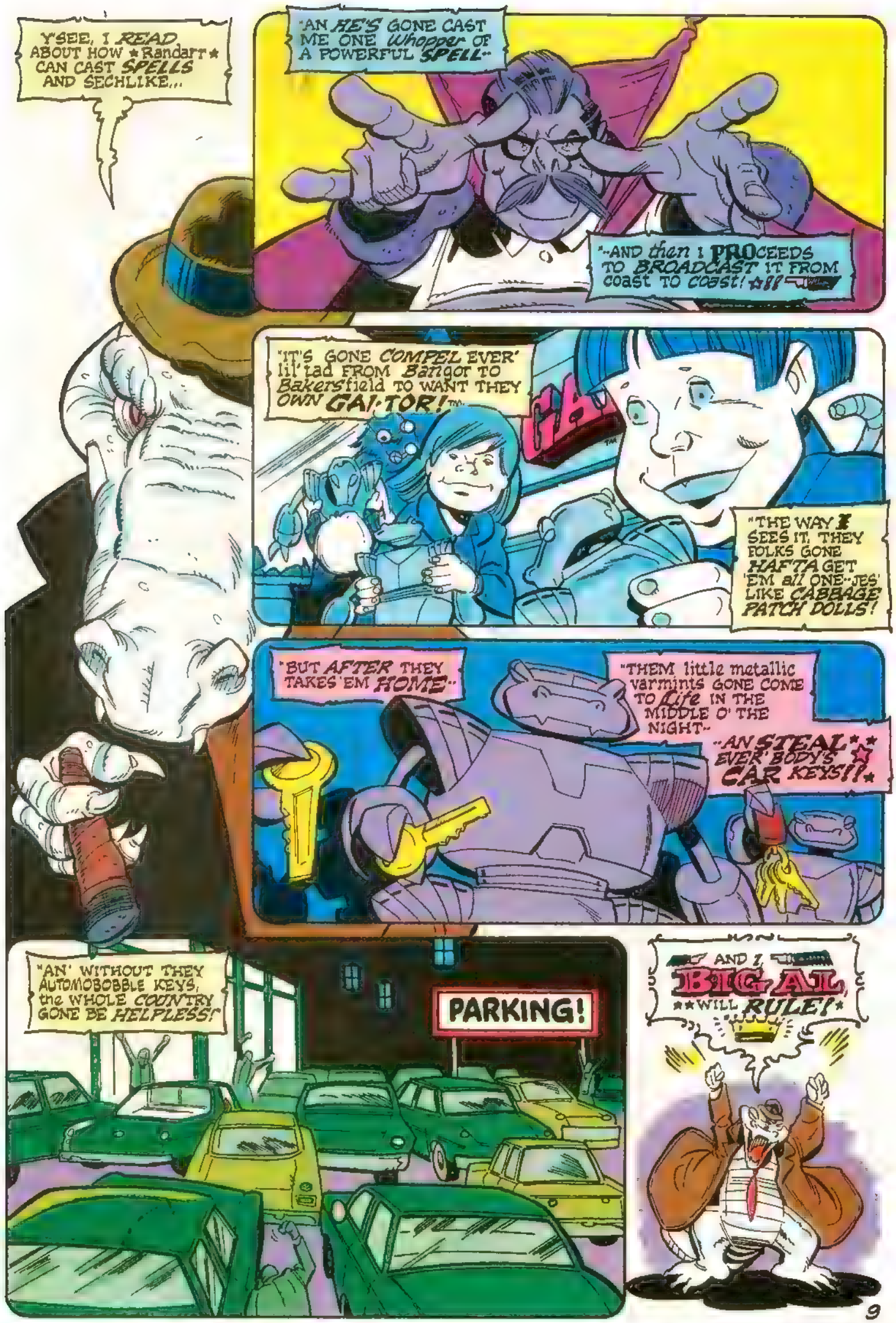
Jon Sable, Freelance #23: The second part of two **Mike Grell** trilogies: "The Contract" and "The Hunt!"

Nexus #7 (first First issue!): They're back! Nexus, Judah Maccabee and special guest-star The Badger! But ... can they escape from the Bowl-Shaped World? **Mike Baron** and **Steve Rude** bring back one of the most exciting new creations of the decade! Now monthly! (Deluxe Series format)

Starslayer #27: At last! The Black Flame, in a special booklength epic! What lies in the lands beyond the Nightmare Realm? How will the Black Flame and Hellequin make it back? **Peter Gillis, Tom Sutton** and **Don Lomax** know the answer — but it takes a full 28 pages to tell the story!

AND PREMIERING NEXT MONTH...

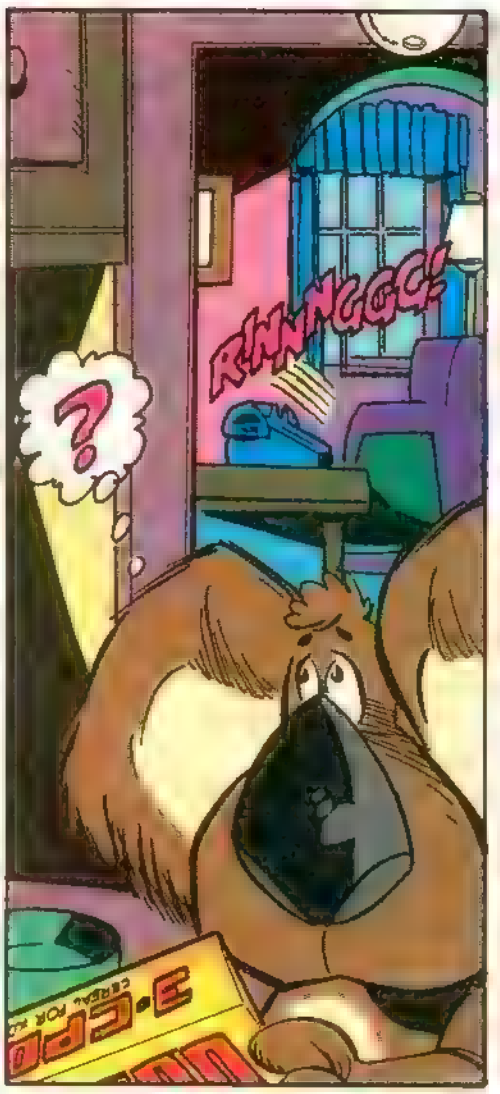
The Badger #5 — the first First issue! On sale just after the first of the new year! The long awaited return of the world's only genuine multi-personalitied crime buster! (Deluxe Series format)


Y'SEE, I READ ABOUT HOW ★Randart★ CAN CAST SPELLS AND SECHLIKE...
'AN HE'S GONE CAST ME ONE Whopper OF A POWERFUL SPELL--
--AND then I PROCEEDS TO BROADCAST IT FROM coast TO coast! ★!!
'IT'S GONE COMPEL EVER' lil' lad FROM Bangor TO Bakersfield TO WANT THEY OWN GAI-TOR!™
"THE WAY I SEES IT, THEY FOLKS GONE HAFTA GET 'EM all ONE-JES' LIKE CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS!
"BUT AFTER THEY TAKES 'EM HOME--
"THEM little metallic varmints GONE COME TO life IN THE MIDDLE O' THE NIGHT--
--AN STEAL EVER' BODY'S CAR KEYS!! ★
"AN' WITHOUT THEY AUTOMOBOBBLE KEYS, the WHOLE COUNTRY GONE BE HELPLESS!
PARKING!
AND I BIG AL ★★WILL RULE!★

SHORTLY...
Quiet on the set!
BY JING, I JES' Loves BEIN'A TV DIRECTATOR!
GAI-TOR
WE GONE DO a DRESS REHEARSAL NOW- see IF WE GOT THIS down!
YES, BOYS AND GIRLS, YOUR VERY OWN GAI-TOR RUNS ON JUST TWO (2) D-CELL BATTERIES (not included).
YOU PUT THEM RIGHT IN HERE--HMM, SEEMS TO BE STUCK. I'LL JUST--
NYYYAAAAHHHHHHHH!
How CAN YOU ELECTROCUTE YOURSELF WITH D-CELL BATTERIES?
ZZZ

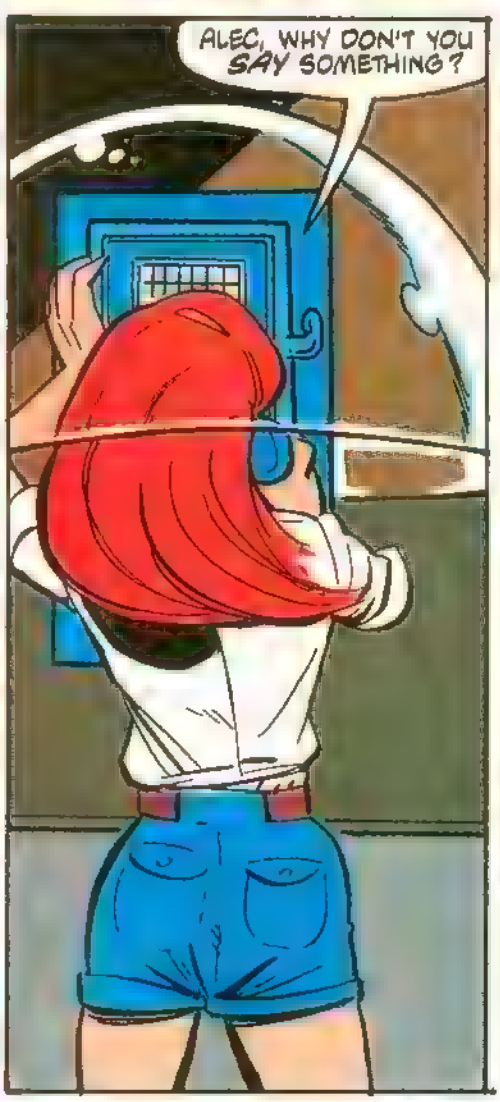
HI THERE, TALL, GREEN AND LOATHSOME, WANT TO LOLL AROUND THE SWAMP WITH ME?
Why, sure- HEY!
YOU ain't supposed to be loose!
BUDDA BUDDA
THWAK
RUN, NOVA! I'LL HOLD THE OTHERS OFF!
I CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE LILI'S NERVE-EVEN IF SHE WAS A SUPER-VILLAINESS NOT LONG AGO! *
I'VE GOT TO FIND A PHONE AND GET HELP.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
* SORRY. I TOLD YOU WE WEREN'T GOING TO TELL YOU AGAIN!

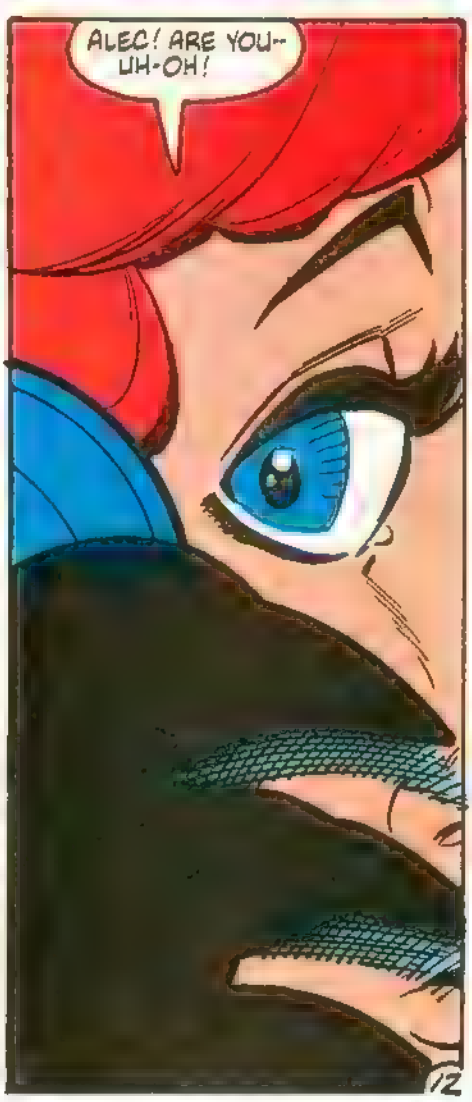
THAT'S RIGHT, OFFICER--
WE'RE BEING HELD PRISONERS BY A BUNCH OF ALLIGATORS WITH MACHINE GUNS, AND--
KLIK
NO! WAIT--!

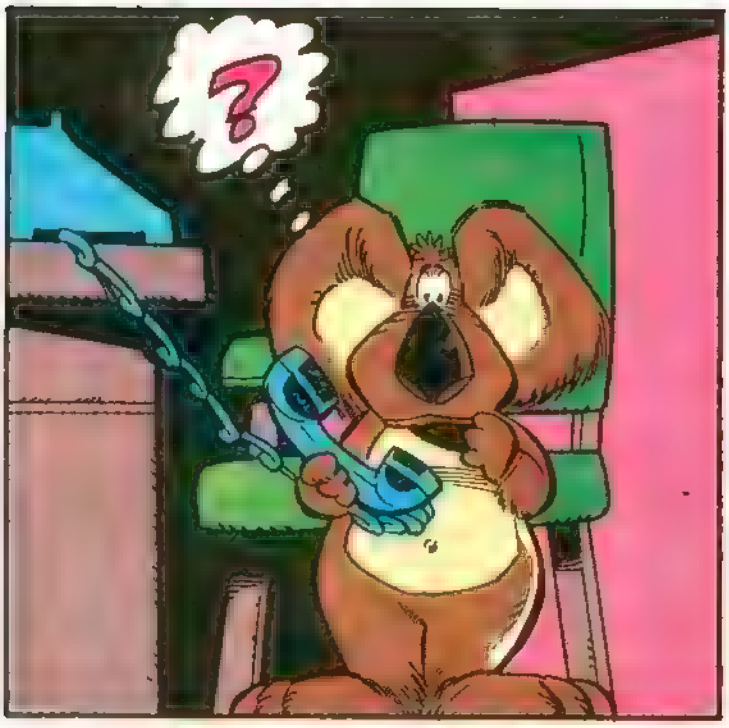

?
R-R-N-N-G-G-G!

ALEC, THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE THERE!
MAUSER'S NOT IN HIS OFFICE, AND THE COPS DON'T BELIEVE ME!
NOW LISTEN--THIS ALL HAS TO DO WITH SOME KIND OF MIND CONTROL THING--
?

--AND RANDARR HAS THIS SPELL--
!


ALEC, WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?


ALEC! ARE YOU--
UH-OH!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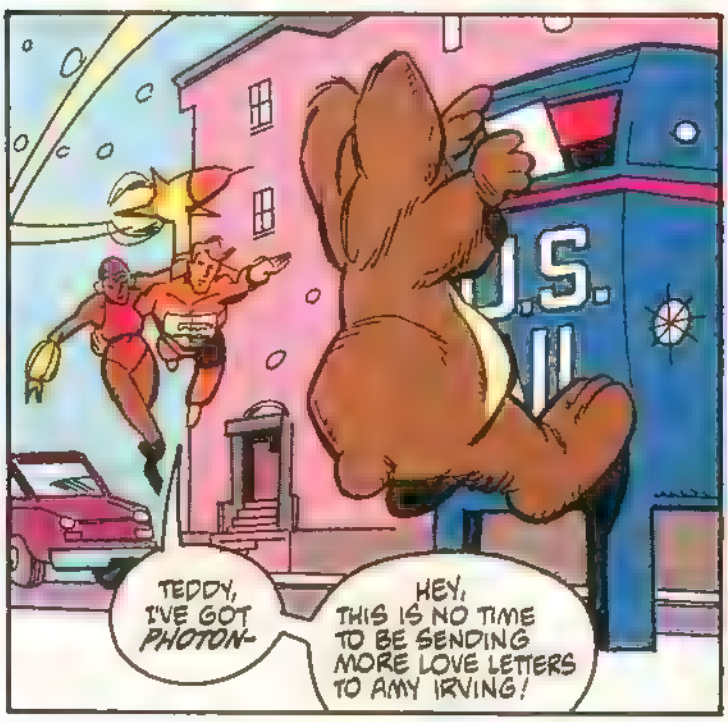
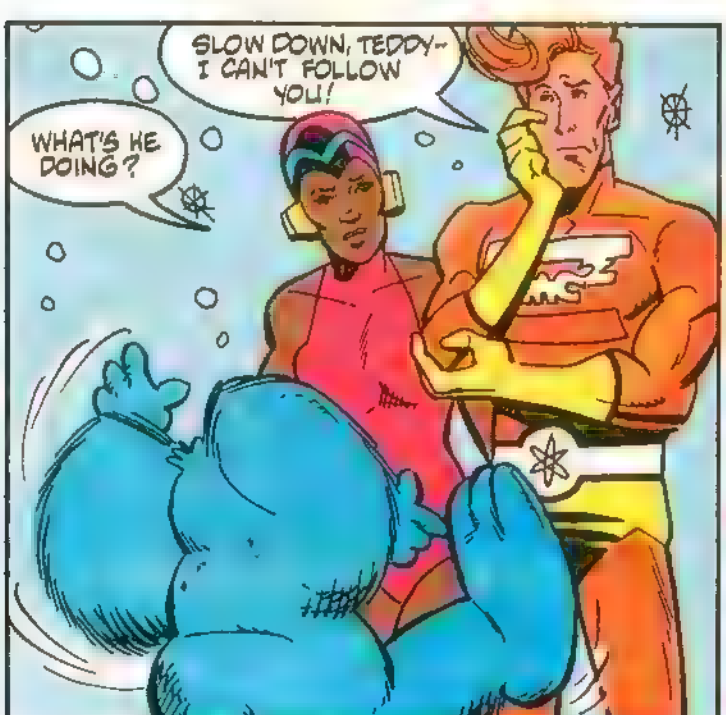

U.S.
TEDDY, I'VE GOT PHOTON-
HEY, THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SENDING MORE LOVE LETTERS TO AMY IRVING!

!

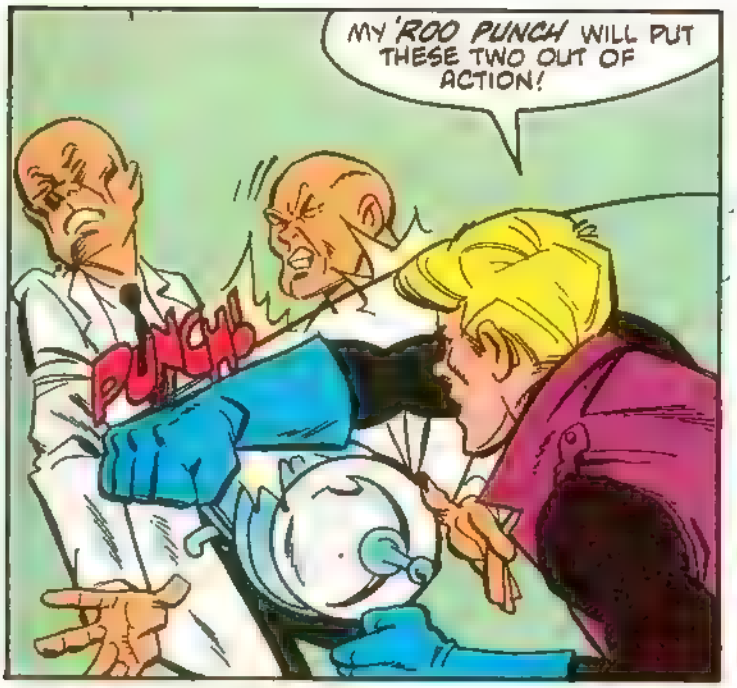

SLOW DOWN, TEDDY- I CAN'T FOLLOW YOU!
WHAT'S HE DOING?

BUT I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO CAN!
BE RIGHT BACK!
U.S. MAIL

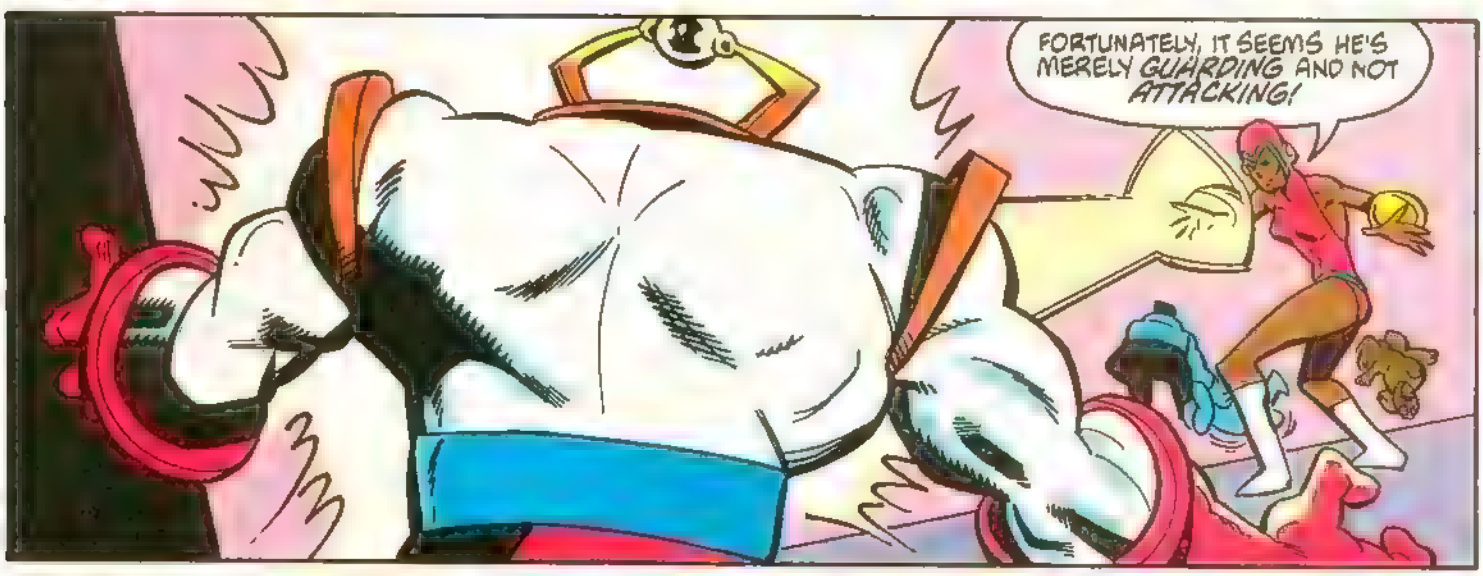
A BEAM OF LIGHT FLASHES WESTWARD ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN...
...AND MOMENTS LATER, A SUPER CONCORDE HURTLES BACK EASTWARD...
...BEARING THE ONLY HUMAN BEING WHO SPEAKS ALL MARSUPIAL LANGUAGES- INCLUDING PANTOMIME!
KID KANGA
HULLO, MATES!
!
THEY'RE GOING TO WHAT?
OH. AND THEN NOVA SAID-
--AND RANDARR'S GOING TO CAST THIS SPELL, AND--
whew
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
WE HAVE TO STOP THAT BROADCAST- NOW!
14

KEEP the TAPE ROLLING BOYS!
DON'T FORGET, BOYS AND GIRLS, THE PERSONAL GAI-TOR IS ENDORSED BY THE UNHAPPY F-MEN, OFFICIAL CONFUSED TEENAGE MUTANTS OF THE 1988 SEOUL OLYMPICS!
ZITPOPS! TM
CLODHOPPUS TM
AND THE EVER-FABULOUS Weasel! TM
SLIME-SQUIRMER! TM
* E-MAN #2 AND 3.
BE-YOO-TI-FUL! ....CUT! .... ★ PRINT! ★★
CHOP
CHOP
WHACK!
AS OWNER OF THE UNHAPPY F-MEN TM, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT-WISE, I GET 5% OF THE UNADJUSTED GROSS SALES...
OH, IF ONLY KITTY COULD BE HERE! :sniff:
KEE-RECT DR. FAIRMONT OL' BUDDY--WE IS PARTNERS NOW!
NOW, JES' HOW DID YOU SAY THAT "MUTANT" OSTERIZER OF YERS ?? WORKS???

MANY FLOORS BELOW, AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SEARS TOWER...
IT'S THE BATTERY- BUT WE DESTROYED HIM!*
AKAAAA!
E-MAN..OH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BUY ALL OF THEM!
WHAT'S THE BATTERY DOING HERE? HE BELONGS TO SAMUEL BOAR!
SSSLLLRRT
SO WHO DO YOU THINK MAKE RITTLE LOBOTS?
"RITTLE LOBOTS"?
VEEMAWEE
UH-OH! THEY'VE GOT THAT RAYYYYYYYYYYY
THIS MUST BE A NEW BATTERY-HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE! MY SOLAR FLARES ARE USELESS AGAINST HIM!
KRA-
ZACK!
16


MY 'ROO PUNCH WILL PUT THESE TWO OUT OF ACTION!
PUNCH!

PHOTON, YOU'VE GOT TO HOLD OFF THE BATTERY UNTIL WE GET E-MAN OUT OF HERE!
RIGHT, KID!

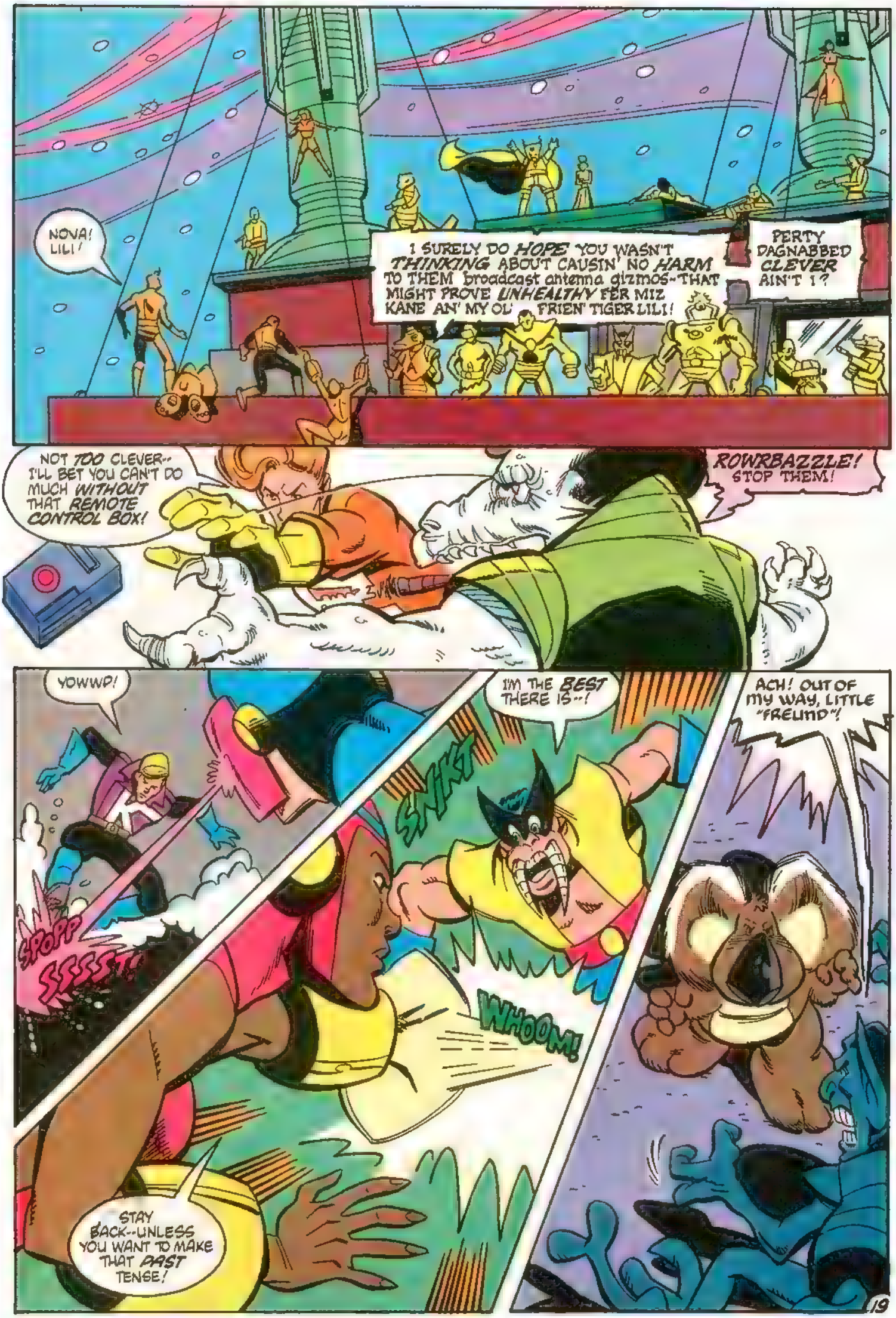

FORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS HE'S MERELY GUARDING AND NOT ATTACKING!

THANKS, GUYS. THIS IS EMBARASSING.
DOES THIS FOOT GO HERE?

THERE, THAT'S BETTER. I--
I CAN'T CHANGE SHAPE! IT MUST BE A RESIDUAL EFFECT OF THE RAY.
THAT MEANS I CAN'T FLY--AND THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THAT BROADCAST NOW IS TO...

CLIMB SEARS TOWER AND KNOCK OUT THE ANTENNA!

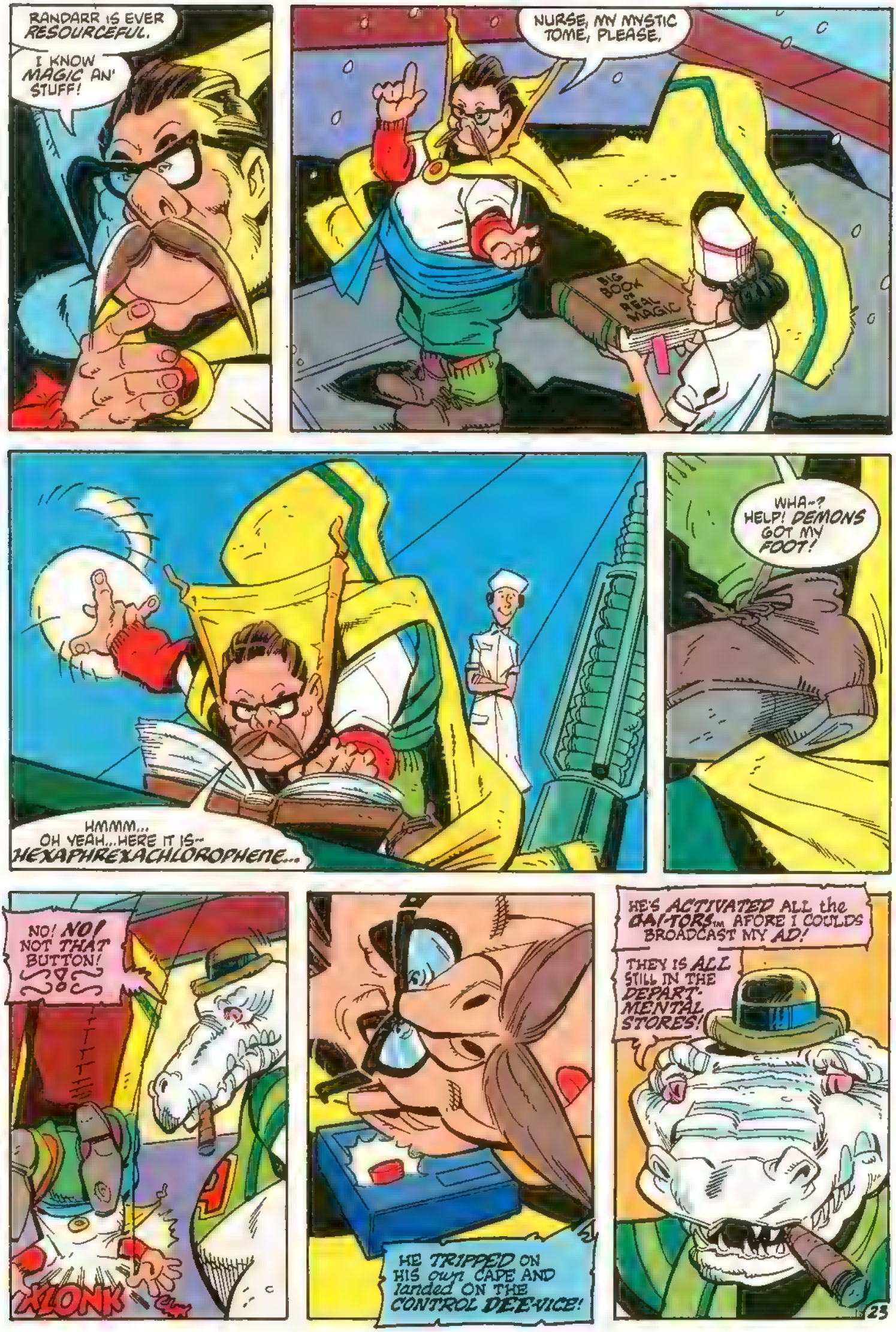
I DON'T KNOW, COBBER-- THE 'ROOS TAUGHT ME TO JUMP REAL GOOD, BUT NOT THAT GOOD!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--OOF--I'VE GOT TO WORK ON MY LEAPING TALL BUILDINGS IN A SINGLE BOUND!
DON'T WORRY, KID! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
UH, MATEY, DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT--
WELL, LOOKY HERE--
I IS A-FRAID FRIDAY the 13th COME ON A THURSDAY THIS MONTH-FOR YOU, E-MAN!!


NOVA! LILI!
I SURELY DO HOPE YOU WASN'T THINKING ABOUT CAUSIN' NO HARM TO THEM broadcast antenna gizmos--THAT MIGHT PROVE UNHEALTHY FER MIZ KANE AN' MY OL' FRIEN' TIGER LILI!
PERTY DAGNABBED CLEVER AIN'T I?
NOT TOO CLEVER-- I'LL BET YOU CAN'T DO MUCH WITHOUT THAT REMOTE CONTROL BOX!
ROWRBAZZLE! STOP THEM!
YOWWP!
SPOPP SSSSST!
I'M THE BEST THERE IS--!
SNIKT
WHOOM!
ACH! OUT OF MY WAY, LITTLE "FREUND"!
STAY BACK--UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THAT PAST TENSE!

KLONK!
BAMPF!
WHUMP!
AIEE! FEEDBACK BURNING MY HANDS!
OOOMPH!
IN HIS HEART, CLODHOPPUS WISHES YOU NO HARM--BUT IN HIS CEMENT BRAIN, HE THINKS, "SQUASH THE PUNY BUGGER!"
WHAP!
OH, NO-- NOT AGAIN!
WEAWEAWEAWEAWEA
OH, JEAN-- WHERE ARE YOU? :sniff:
OH, KITTY-- HOW DID I FAIL YOU? :sniff:
AIN'T NOTHIN' GONE STOP MY BROADCAST NOW!
OR MAYBE THERE IS!

D¢ WHAT THE-!? SANTY CLAUS!? !!!!@$%@!!!!
WITH MY LITTLE HELPERS-THE SMELTS!
BUT HOW--!
WE GOT TEDDY'S LETTER-
SOME GLASSY-EYED POSTAL WORKER WALKED THROUGH A BLIZZARD TO HAND-DELIVER IT!
WE'RE WORKING PART-TIME FOR SANTA OVER THE CHRISTMAS RUSH. WE NEED THE CASH--QUESTING IS EXPENSIVE!
IT DON'T MATTER NONE! ALL I GOTS TO DO IS PRESS THIS FIRST (11ct) BUTTON HERE, AN' THEN--
SORRY--THAT'S NOT PART OF THE B-TEAM PLAN!
WE GOT YO' LETTER, LITTLE FUZZY SUCKAH!
RATATA
TATATAT!
KA-WHOOOOM!
21

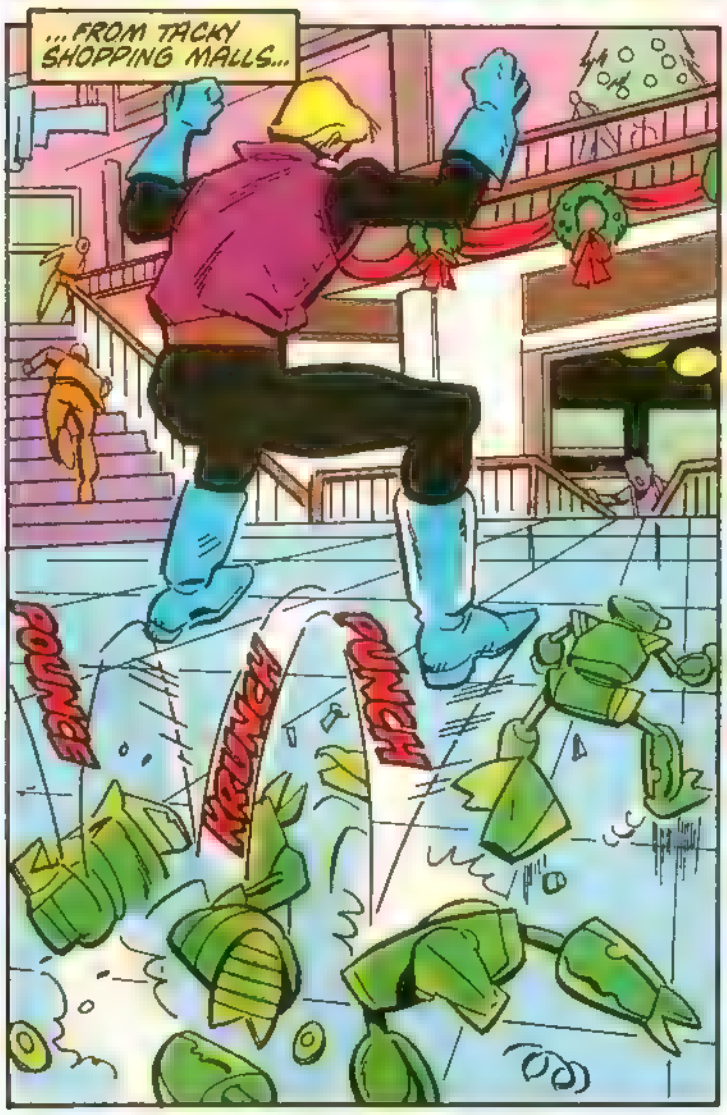
BOOM
BEEOW!
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUD
CHOW
BANG!
POW!
OUCH!
KA-WHANG
BY THE HOWLING HORDES OF MACKEREL SACK
THIS IS SUCH GOOD THERAPY FOR HIM.
FOOMF
TA-POKETTA
TA-POKETTA
KA-WHOOM
POW
WHOOM
CRAKADOOM
CHOW CHOW CHOW
OOPS!
CRUNCH
SOON, IT IS OVER.
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN WILL YOU, AL?
THANKS FOR THE RESCUE, HANSOME?
HMMM.
DAD GUM, ★RANDARR★, YOU NO-GOOD-NIK-YOU IS SUPPOSED TO BE the MASTER OF the MUSTY ARTS-AIN'T YOU GONE DO NUTHIN'?!?


RANDARR IS EVER RESOURCEFUL.
I KNOW MAGIC AN' STUFF!
NURSE, MY MYSTIC TOME, PLEASE.
BIG BOOK of REAL MAGIC
HMMM... OH YEAH...HERE IT IS~ HEXAPHREXACHLOROPHENE...
WHA~? HELP! DEMONS GOT MY FOOT!
NO! NO! NOT THAT BUTTON!
KLONK
HE TRIPPED ON HIS own CAPE AND landed ON THE CONTROL DEE-VICE!
HE'S ACTIVATED ALL the OAI-TORS™ AFORE I COULDS BROADCAST MY AD!
THEY IS ALL STILL IN THE DEPART-MENTAL STORES!

HA! BUT THEY IS STILL GONE CAUSE YOU A WHOLE HEAP O' TROUBLE!
HE'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO FAN OUT AND STOP ALL THOSE GATORS!
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, MATE, I'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR DOWN.
YIII!
ALL OVER CHICAGOLAND, DIMINUTIVE MONSTERS COME TO LIFE...
...AND ATTACK!
BUT THEY DO NOT GO UNCHALLENGED!
EAT LEAD, SUCKAH!
RATATA
FROM NEIGHBORHOOD TOY STORES...
...TO LARGE DEPARTMENT STORES...
KA-POW
POW

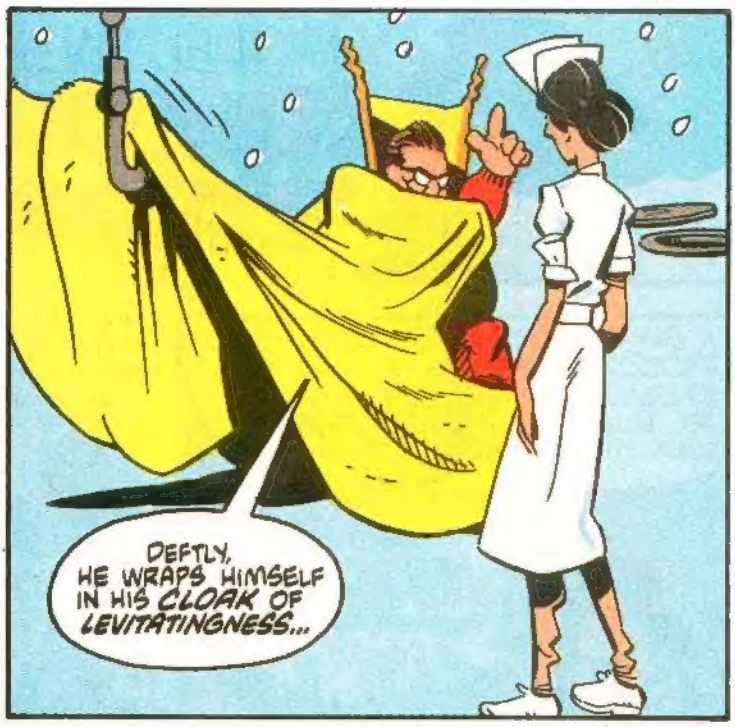
...FROM FASHIONABLE MICHIGAN AVENUE...
Joe DiMaggio
KA-CHUN

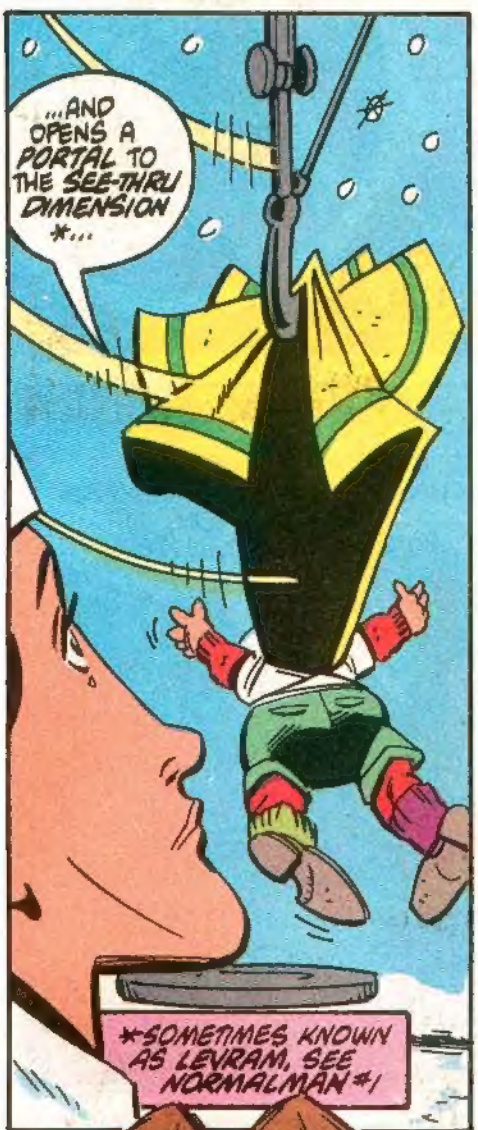
...TO FUNKY STATE STREET...
HII-YAAH!
FIFTH AVE.


...FROM TACKY SHOPPING MALLS...
POUNCE
KRUNCH
PUNCH

...TO SCENIC LAKE SHORE DRIVE...
WHOOM!
HEY, MOMMA, WHUT YOU DOIN' TO MY CAR!

FINALLY...
WE DID IT, BIG FELLA- WE DESTROYED ALL THE GAI-TORS!
YEAH- BUT I WISH WE COULD HAVE DONE IT A LITTLE FASTER...
IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE TO SORT OUT ALL THESE CAR KEYS...
GOOD LUCK, E-MAN. I'M TAKING THE SMELTS OUT FOR A LITTLE LAST MINUTE SHOPPING.
UH, SURE, SANTA. HAVE FUN.
NOW, WHO'S GOT THE '42 PACKARD?
BOY, WASN'T I SPECTACULAR? MY MAGIC DID ALL THIS.
26





NEXT MONTH:

THE EXCITING CONCLUSION OF OUR THREE-PART LIMITED SERIES--**THE P.I.'s**, STARRING MIKE MAUSER AND MS. TREE.

E-MAN RETURNS IN TWO MONTHS, AS CO-CREATOR NICOLA CUTI COMES BACK TO TELL--

THE SECRET ORIGIN OF MICHAEL MAUSER!

MICHAEL MAUSER'S
CRIMESTOMPERS' TEXTBOOK
STOOLIES
SCRIPT: MIKE W. BARR
ART: JOE STATON
A SMOOTH STYLE AND MATCHLESS DETECTIVE INSTINCTS AIN'T ENOUGH T'MAKE IT IN THE P.I. BUSINESS... YOU GOTTA HAVE STOOLIES!
FINDIN' A STOOLIE AIN'T HARD, BUT KEEPIN' 'EM'S THE PROBLEM-- HERE'S HOW I DO IT!
9mm
"YOU BEGIN THE FIRST TIME YOU PAY OFF YOUR STOOLIE. THEY ONLY TAKE CASH...
"BUT I MAKE SURE THE DOUGH IS... ER... 'SPECIALLY PREPARED' BY ME BEFOREHAND...
UNITED STATES
"SO WHEN HE TRIES T'SPEND IT..."
HEY, THIS MONEY'S COUNTERFEIT!
HUH?
WHOLESOME!
DR. HUH?
F-DOG
F-MEN
SALE!
"AND AT THE TRIAL... THAT'S WHEN I WIN MY OSCAR!"
HE AIN'T A BAD BOY YOUR HONOR--I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
GOD BLESS YOU, MR. MAUSER!
T-THANKS, MIKE... ;sniff;
STOOLIES! THEY GOT BIG EARS, AND BIG MOUTHS, BUT SMALL BRAINS!
MIKE! I GOT BIG NEWS-- FOR THE USUAL PRICE...
END

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